

REMARKS

Claims 1-39 were pending. Claim 23 has been amended, claims 28-39 have been canceled, and claims 40-46 have been added. Support may be found in the specification and claims generally. No statutory new matter has been added. Therefore, entry of the claims as amended and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

In the Office action mailed 26 September 2003, the Examiner required a restriction as follows:

- I. Claims 17-27, drawn to a method of inducing an antibody response and preventing ricin intoxication by administering chemically deglycosylated ricin A-chain, classified in Class 514, subclass 885.
- II. Claims 28-39, drawn to vaccines, pharmaceutical compositions and immunogenic compositions each comprising chemically deglycosylated ricin A-chain, classified in Class 424, subclass 185.1.

The Examiner explained that Inventions I and II are independent and distinct, and therefore restriction is proper, where the process as claimed can be practiced with another materially different product, or the product as claimed can be used in a materially different process, or both.

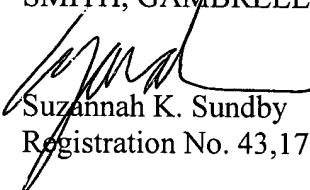
Applicants hereby elect to prosecute the claims of Group I (claims 17-27 and newly added claims 40-46), without traverse. Applicants respectfully assert that newly added claims 40-46 should properly be examined as part of Group I as they are method claims which depend from claims 17-27. Therefore, claims 17-27 and 40-46 should properly be examined together as Group I.

CONCLUSION

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

It is not believed that extensions of time are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in accompanying documents. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a), and any fees required therefor are hereby authorized to be charged to our Deposit Account No. Deposit Account No. **210380**, referencing Attorney Docket No. **034047.004.1US (RIID 99-12)**.

Respectfully submitted,
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